

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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P 200100 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN BEIRUT JIDDA KUWAIT
TEHRAN TEL AVIV CAIR FROM BAGHDAD 17 APR 73 RPT TO YOU
QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 215

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, LE, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI REACTION TO ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

1. IRAQI MEDIA GAVE FULL CREDENCE TO PALESTINIAN ACCUSATIONS
OF U. S. COMPLICITY WITH ISRAEL IN BEIRUT RAID AND RIDICULED
USG ATTEMPTS TO DENY IT. LARGE PUBLIC MOCK FUNERAL FOR THREE
FATAH LEADERS ON APRIL 12 WAS APPARENTLY FIRST SUCH DEMONSTRATION
ALLOWED IN TWO YEARS. DEMONSTRATION WAS, HOWEVER, HIGHLY
ORGANIZED AND TIGHTLY SUPERVISED BY SECURITY FORCES.

2. COMMENT: EXTREME IRAQI REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT RESULTS
FROM DEEPLY FELT HUMILIATION OVER ISRAELI CAPABILITY TO PULL
OFF SUCH A DARING FEAT WITH IMPUNITY. IT WAS, THEREFORE, OUT
OF QUESTION FOR REGIME TO ADMIT ISRAELIS DID IT WITHOUT
ASSISTANCE OF GREAT POWER. IN PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE OF
BAGHDAD
TRUE SPECIFICS OF INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS ARE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE,
SINCE EVEN NON- BAATH, PRO- WESTERN IRAQIS ARE CONVINCED OF
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UNRESTRAINED NATURE OF U. S. MILITARY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR
ISRAEL.
LOWRIE

UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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